Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace the paragraph of page 1, lines 6 to 16 (which is paragraph [0001] of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. **20050070005** ("the '005 publication")) with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/399,272, filed Jul. 26, 2002. This application is also a continuation-in-part application ("CIP") of U.S. patent applications Ser. No. ("U.S. Ser. No. ") 09/975,036, filed Oct. 10, 2001, now pending, and this application is also a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 10/145,281, filed May 13, 2002, now pending, which is a divisional (DIV) of U.S. Ser. No. 09/985,432, filed Oct. 10, 2000, now pending, which is a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 09/444,112, filed Nov. 22, 1999, issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,972,183, December 6, 2005 ~~now pending~~, which is a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 09/098,206, issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,174,673, filed Jun. 16, 1998, which is a CIP of U.S. Ser. No. 08/876,276, filed Jun. 16, 1997, now pending. Each of the aforementioned applications are explicitly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety and for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph of page 24, lines 16 to 32 (which is paragraph [0062] of the '005 publication") with the following amended paragraph:

[0062] Other screening methods include growth selection (Snustad et al., 1988; Lundberg et al., 1993; Yano et al., 1998), colorimetric screening of bacterial colonies or phage plaques (Kuritz, 1999), in vitro expression cloning (King et al., 1997) and cell surface or phage display (Benhar, 2001). Each of these systems has limitations. Solid phase colorimetric plate screening of colonies or plaques is limited by relatively low throughput. Even with the use of microcolonies/plaques and automated imaging and clone recovery, thorough screening of complex libraries is impractical. Cell surface and/or phage display technologies suffer from structural limitations of the displayed molecule. Often the size and/or shape of the displayed molecule is restricted by the display technology. One of the highest throughput screening methods, growth selection, is also limited in its scope of usefulness. Assay conditions, temperature and pH, are limited by the growth parameters of the host strain. Molecular interactions are often constrained by the host cell membranes and/or cell

wall, as substrate must be presented to intracellular enzymes. In addition, "false positives" or a high level of "background" are a common occurrence in many selection assays. With respect to screening for improved variants in GSSM ~~GSSM™~~ or GeneReassembly libraries, growth selection is seldom quantitative.

Please replace the paragraph of page 43, lines 5 to 12 (which is paragraph [0150] of the '005 publication) with the following amended paragraph:

[0150] The invention methods include a system and method for holding and screening samples. According to one aspect of the invention, a sample screening apparatus includes a plurality of capillaries formed into an array of adjacent capillaries, wherein each capillary comprises at least one wall defining a lumen for retaining a sample. The apparatus further includes interstitial material disposed between adjacent capillaries in the array, and one or more reference indicia formed within of the interstitial material. (see U.S. patent 6,794,127, co-pending U.S. patent application ~~applications~~ Ser. No. ~~Nos. 09/687,219~~ and 09/894,956).

Please replace the paragraph of page 172, lines 22 to 24 (which is paragraph [0732] of the '005 publication) with the following amended paragraph:

[0732] 28. Strunk, O. & Ludwig, W. ~~in http://www.mikro.biologie.tumuenchen-.de~~ (Department of Microbiology, Technische Universitt Munchen, Munich, Germany, 1998).